



Newsletter Autumn Term 1



07 September 2019

Dear Parents

Welcome to the new school year and our first newsletter of 2018-2019.

All the children are settling well and we are looking forward to the exciting events and activities we have planned for the year. A list of dates and events is included in this letter for your information.

One of the areas identified from our recent parental questionnaire was to improve communication between school and home.

In response to this we have already had an open evening on Wednesday where you could meet your child's class teacher and find out about expectations and routines. Thank you to all of you who were able to attend and I hope you found it useful. If you were not able to come a letter should be sent home for your information.

We are reviewing the way we share information with you through newsletters and aiming to make it more informative and more frequent. In light of this we are changing from half termly newsletters to weekly bulletins. Through these we aim to share highlights of the week just gone and remind you of key dates and events for the following week. We hope this new format will be an improvement and will be asking for your feedback in the New Year. The first of these bulletins will be sent in the next few weeks.

Text Messaging

From time to time you will receive a text message from the school with regard to emergency closure, reminders, updates and other important information. The service is a discreet, convenient, secure and reliable method of communication that will only be used to send messages, we cannot receive them. Please be assured that the service is free to you as a recipient of the message.

Text messages will be sent to the 1st mobile number that you listed on your child's emergency contact form. We only allow one mobile number per child for text messages. Please let the school office know if you wish to change the mobile number for this service.

Healthy Schools

We are proud to have gained Sainsbury's School Games Gold Standard for the school. This recognises our commitment to sporting activities and promoting healthy lifestyles. Last year Denby Dale First and Nursery School attended over 85% of the inter school competitions organised by the Shelley Sports Partnership as compared to 80% in the previous year.

As part of our promotion of good health and nutrition children from Y1 – Y5 can bring a snack to school for morning break if they would like. Snacks allowed at break time are fresh fruit or vegetables or plain breadsticks. Please note other snacks are not allowed in school. All children should have a bottle of water in school. Please note – only still water – no juice, flavoured or sparkling water.

Allergies

We have quite a number of children in school with severe allergies. For this reason we are a 'nut free' school and ask you not to send in products containing nuts in your child's healthy snacks and lunchboxes. Thank you for your understanding.

Mentions Assembly Reminder

Mentions assembly is every Friday. If your child has earned a mention you will receive an invitation by text on Thursday afternoon inviting you to attend the assembly at 8.55am the following morning. If you are unable to attend the invitation is open to grandparents or other close relatives. Out of school achievements such as sporting certificates will still be recognised and valued by school and will be presented during other weekly assemblies.

Parent Reminder

To ensure the safety and well-being of your child/children can you please inform the school office if there are any changes to normal collection arrangement (e.g. child going on a playdate, being collected by another parent or family member).

Absences

Please remember to report all absences to the school office by 9.15am on the morning of your child's absence by either phone or email parents@denbydale.education. For safeguarding reasons if we do not hear from you we will phone contact numbers to make sure your child is safe. Please ensure that infectious illnesses are reported to school so that we can monitor any outbreaks.

Parking

Please can we ask you to park considerately, leaving the yellow zig-zag lines, neighbours' driveways and the bus routes at the junction to Pingle Rise clear.

There are two designated drop-off spaces in the school car park for parents to use when dropping off or collecting children from our Dragonflies extended provision. If the designated spaces are full please use the spaces at the top of the car park. However, the car park is NOT ACCESSIBLE between 8.30 am – 9.00 am and 2.45 pm – 3.30 pm. The only other people using the car park between 8.30 am and 3.30pm should be staff, parents with specific permission from the school and deliveries. No children should be in the car park unsupervised.



Our next meeting is on Wednesday 19th September at 7.00pm in the Community Room. This is our AGM and we will be planning fund raising events for this academic year. Everybody is welcome (parents/carers/grandparents).

The first fund raising event of the year is a Sponsored Bike Ride on Saturday 22nd September at Pugneys Country Park in Wakefield. This is for the families with children in Nursery, Reception and Y1. Sponsor forms will be sent home on Monday.

Autumn Term Topics and Activities



We will be welcoming children back into our nursery setting including all our new starters. Our main focus will be building positive relationships, establishing routines and modelling play across the provision. We will be looking at traditional tales, the children will have the opportunity to look at and use props to re-tell the stories. The children will have the opportunity to explore all the different areas of the setting, including our small world train track and dolls house. In the water area the children will be able to experiment using water wheels and different containers for filling and emptying. The children will be joining in with some favourite songs like “if you’re happy and you know it” and nursery rhymes. In addition:



In **Butterflies** (3-4 year olds) we will be exploring houses and where we live. In a few weeks we will be asking parents to bring in photos of your house to share at group time.

In **Dragonflies** (2 year old provision) we will be looking at and talking about the children’s experiences throughout the summer break by asking parents to bring in photographs of holidays, day trips for the children to share at group time.



In Ladybirds (**Reception**) the topic is “Me and Make-believe”. The children will be learning About their five senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. They will explore how we can move our bodies in different ways. We will talk about families and what makes us unique. We will also be exploring emotions, making friends, sharing and turn taking.

The children will be encouraged to begin to be responsible for looking after their own belongings and our toys and equipment at school.

In literacy the children will be listening to and sharing stories around the theme of ourselves as well as traditional and fairy tales. We will use role play areas and small world toys to support children in developing their imagination, story language and storytelling. Children will be taught to write their names using the correct letter formation and will be encouraged to start making marks to record their ideas. In phonics we are revising phase one letters and sounds and then will start phase 2. This covers most of the sounds of the alphabet.

In mathematics we will be practising counting forwards and backwards to 10, then 20 (and beyond if appropriate). We will be finding numbers which are one more, or one less, than a given number. The children will be encouraged to use their own marks or drawings to help solve these problems. We will be learning to write numbers 0-9 with the correct formation.

We will also be exploring measuring in relation to our topic looking at height and length.

Year 1 topic this half term is “There’s a dragon in my school”. We will be reading stories featuring dragons, singing dragon songs, chanting rhymes and playing dragon games. So, if you have any dragons at home that would like to come to join in the fun in Year 1 they are welcome to visit (but please make sure they have a name label). If you have any dragon stories to share we would love to read them in class.

On Thursday afternoons we will be working with Mrs Deacon and Reception children on a range of creative and exploratory activities and investigations. We will be hunting for dragons around the school and learning about the school rules. In maths we will be investigating place value (tens and ones), addition and subtraction and shape.

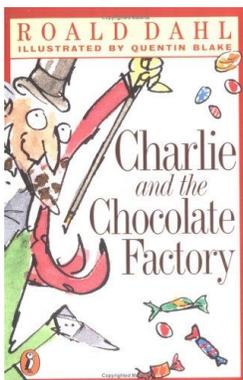


In **Year 2** our topic will be “Magic”, focussing on ‘Winnie the Witch’. In Literacy the children will be writing character descriptions, instructions and poems focussing on rhyme and patterns. The literacy lessons will pull out key grammar features such as; interesting adjectives, sentence types and conjunctions. In maths the children will look at place value, skip counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s, odds and evens and greater than and less than. In science we will be looking at “Materials and Their Uses” and in art the children will be using a variety of media to create art pieces surround ‘Winnie the Witch’.



Our topic this half term in **Year 3** is “Amazing Animals”. We will be learning about nutrition and keeping healthy and about how animal bodies work, mainly focusing on the functions of skeletons and muscles. We will be reading the true story “Finding Gobi” and linking this into our topic, especially science and literacy. I think the class have already fallen in love with Gobi! Maths is so important and knowing times tables by heart really helps children as they move into Key Stage 2. We will be working on them in class but please also work on them at home with your child. We are building up our confidence and speed!

Year 4 during this term the children will be inspired by the topic ‘Battle of Britain’. We will be learning about evacuees, the blitz, rations and events through time. In addition to this we have a DT project to create robust Anderson shelters to protect ourselves and our families. Maths will focus on number, place value and Roman numerals. In Literacy we shall look at descriptive language around ‘The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe’. In P.E we will be focusing on ball skills and athletics.



Year 5 will be starting this new school year with an exciting and engaging topic, the theme of which is “Chocolate”. In literacy we will be reading a classic – Roald Dahl’s “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” and using this to help us with our descriptive writing. We will also be studying the ancient civilization of the Mayans and researching the “bean to bar” process that takes cocoa and makes it into the chocolate bars we sell at our Fairtrade stall. In numeracy, we will be focusing on place value and our mental maths skills e.g. multiplication tables.



Extra Curricular Activities this half term

Tuesday	3-4pm	Athletics Club	Years 4 and 5
Wednesday	3-4pm	Invasion Games	Years 3, 4 and 5
Wednesday	3-4pm	Bricks4Kidz	Years 1 and 2
Thursday	3-4pm	Girls Football	Years 4 and 5
Thursday	3-4pm	Gardening Club	Years 1 and 2

Sporting Activities

There will be a Cross Country event for Years 4 and 5 at Thurstonland First School on Tuesday 11th September, 4pm-5pm. The Cross Country event for Years 2 and 3 will be at Shepley First School on Tuesday 18th September, 4pm-5pm. Further information is available from the school office (parents@denbydale.education).



Holiday Club

We are pleased to say that our summer holiday club was extremely successful and was enjoyed by the children and staff alike! Holiday club will be open to all age groups (2-5 years and 6-10 years) during the October half term break and booking forms can be obtained by contacting the office (parents@denbydale.education). Places will be limited, so please ensure your form is returned by Friday 5th October.

School Admissions

Kirklees applications are open from the **1 September 2018 and close on 15 January 2019** for **Reception class** places from September 2019 (children born between 01/09/2014 and 31/08/2015)

Year 6/middle school applications are open from **1 September 2018 and close 31 October 2018** places from September 2019 (current Year 5).

Please visit www.kirklees.gov.uk/admissions for further information or email pupiladmissions@kirklees.gov.uk .



Our **Stay and Play** sessions are running again every Monday from 9.15am to 11.15am for children aged 0 to 4 years. Please bring your child/ren along and join in the fun. Drinks and snacks will be provided (voluntary contribution £2). The session can be accessed directly through the Community Room entrance door.

Yours sincerely

J Wood
Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 11 September	KS2 Cross-country, Thurstonland First School
Tuesday 18 September	KS1 Cross-country, Shepley First School
Wednesday 19 September	Reading Meeting Reception and Year 1
Wednesday 19 September	Individual Photos Yr 1 – Yr 5 children
Thursday 20 September	Individual Photos Reception and Nursery children
Wednesday 19 September	PTA AGM @ 7.00pm
Saturday 22 September	Sponsored Bike Ride Nursery, Reception and Year 1
Tuesday 2 October	Girls football tournament @ Shelley College
Thursday 11 October	Harvest Festival
8 th -11 th October	Year 5 Bikeability
Wednesday 10 October	KS1 Indoor Athletics, Shelley College
Wednesday 17 October	Y2 Multi-skills, Shelley College

Autumn Term:

School re-opens	Tuesday 4 th September 2018
School closes for ½ term	Friday 26 th October 2018
Dragonflies Holiday Club	Monday 29 th October – Friday 2 November
School and Dragonflies Closed *	Monday 5 th November 2018
School re-opens	Tuesday 6 th November 2018
School and Dragonflies Closed *	Friday 30 th November 2018
School and Dragonflies closes	Friday 21 st December 2018, 6pm